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THE Wool SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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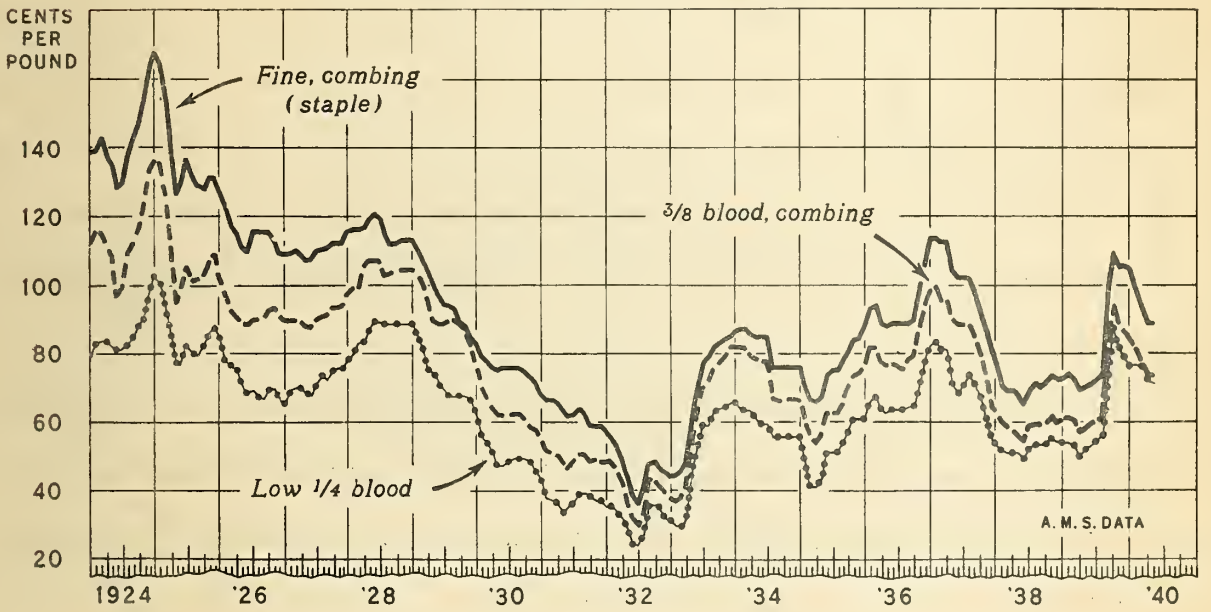
WOOL, TERRITORY, SCOURED BASIS: AVERAGE PRICES AT BOSTON, 1924-40



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 19684 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

THE SHARP ADVANCE IN PRICES OF DOMESTIC WOOL IN SEPTEMBER 1939, FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK OF THE EUROPEAN WAR, WAS CHIEFLY THE RESULT OF THE RELATIVELY SMALL SUPPLIES OF WOOL ON HAND IN THIS COUNTRY AND THE STRONG FOREIGN DEMAND FOR WOOL ARISING FROM WAR CONDITIONS. THE DECLINE IN DOMESTIC MILL CONSUMPTION SINCE OCTOBER HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY A DROP IN WOOL PRICES, BUT PRICES AT BOSTON IN MAY WERE ABOUT 25 PERCENT HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE WOOL SITUATION

A discussion of the comparability of statistics of United States wool production, stocks and consumption, is contained in this issue.

Summary

Recent developments favorable to the disposal of the 1940 domestic wool clip now being marketed include the upturn in domestic industrial activity, the announcement that the United States War Department will purchase relatively large quantities of wool cloth in the near future, and the sharp decline in imports of apparel wool into the United States. Offerings of wool in most foreign markets are likely to be restricted until the new Southern Hemisphere clip is available in the fall. The sharp decline in domestic mill consumption of wool in recent months is an unfavorable factor in the domestic wool situation, but this condition may be improved in coming months.

United States imports (for consumption) of apparel wool totaled 12 million pounds in April compared with 21 million pounds in March and 6 million pounds in April 1939. Imports in the first 4 months of this year, totaling 78 million pounds, were larger than imports for the same months of any recent year, except 1937.

Mill consumption of apparel wool in the United States in April was 21 percent smaller than in March and was 11 percent smaller than in April 1939. Consumption on a scoured basis in the first 4 months of this year was 5 percent smaller than in the same months last year.

Sales of wool at Boston continued small in May and prices were irregular. Uncertainties due to the war abroad, and the relatively low level

of domestic mill consumption appear to have restricted mill purchases largely to immediate requirements. Prices strengthened in the first week of June following the announcement of War Department purchases to be made in the near future. Wool prices at Boston in May were about 25 percent higher than a year earlier.

The bulk of the 1939-40 clip in South America and the Union of South Africa has been sold. Exports from Argentina and Uruguay in the first 7 months (October-April) of the current season were 5 percent larger than average exports for those months in the 5 seasons 1934-35 through 1938-39. Exports from the Union of South Africa in the current season have been smaller than the 5-year average. The 1939-40 clips of Australia and New Zealand were purchased by the United Kingdom and resale of this wool to neutral countries has been relatively small.

REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Wool trading at Boston restricted, prices irregular in May; prices strengthen in first week of June

Sales of wool at Boston continued small in May. Uncertainties due to the war abroad, and a relatively low level of domestic mill consumption, acted to restrict mill purchases largely to immediate requirements. Prices on small lots of spot wool purchased for immediate needs were unchanged or only slightly lower than prices reported in April. Prices strengthened in the first week of June following the announcement that the War Department will buy relatively large quantities of wool cloth and blankets in the near future.

Boston quotations on graded fine combing (staple) territory wool averaged 88.5 cents a pound, scoured basis in the last week of May, unchanged from a month earlier. Prices of such wool averaged 71 cents a pound a year earlier. Quotations for combing 3/8 blood territory wool averaged 72.5 cents a pound, scoured basis, in the last week of May compared with 73 cents a month earlier and 59 cents a year earlier. Boston quotations in May were largely nominal.

Asking prices on country packed 3/8 and 1/4 blood mixed lots of bright fleece wools offered for direct shipment from country points declined to 34-36 cents in the grease, delivered to users, in the last week of May. By the end of the following week, however, these grades were quoted at 38 cents. Similar wools sold at 35-36 cents in the first week of May.

Prices received by farmers advance in May

The United States average price of wool received by farmers was 27.6 cents a pound on May 15. It was 26.1 cents a pound on April 15 and 21 cents a pound on May 15, 1939. Increases of 1 to 3 cents in the average price for May 15, as compared with April 15, were reported from most of the Western States and bright fleece wool producing States. Prices received by farmers, for wools of the 1940 clip sold thus far, have been about 30 percent higher than prices received a year earlier.

Wool imports decline sharply in April

United States imports for consumption of apparel wool totaled 12 million pounds in April compared with 20.7 million pounds in March. Although imports in April were much smaller than in the previous month they were almost twice as large as in April 1939 and were much larger than average April imports in recent years. Imports in the first 4 months of this year totaling 77.8 million pounds were larger than imports for the same months of any recent year, except 1937, when 95 million pounds were imported.

Imports of carpet wool in the first 4 months of this year totaled 64.4 million pounds compared with 53.7 million pounds in the same months of 1939 and the 5-year (1934-38) average for those months of 43 million pounds.

Imports by countries in first quarter of 1940

United States imports of apparel wool in the first quarter of this year came chiefly from the Union of South Africa, Argentina and Uruguay. Imports of apparel wool grading "not finer than 40s" from the Union of South Africa and Argentina in the first 3 months of this year were more than twice as large as imports from those countries in the entire year 1939. The relatively small imports from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom reflect the Government purchase and control of the entire wool production of those countries.

Imports of wool into the United States by classes, and by countries of production, in 1939 and in the first quarter of 1940 are shown in the accompanying table.

Wool: Imports for consumption, by principal countries of production, United States, calendar year 1939 and January-March 1940

Country of production	1939			January-March 1940		
	Carpet, excluding camels' hair	Apparel wool: Not finer than 40s 1/	Apparel wool: Finer than 40s	Carpet, excluding camels' hair	Apparel wool: Not finer than 40s 1/	Apparel wool: Finer than 40s
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Argentina	45,609	13,932	8,079	28,739	5,388	17,837
Australia	34	257	29,113	2/	19	7,986
New Zealand	8,019	5,640	6,697	751	161	1,005
Uruguay	598	634	16,062	40	296	11,425
Chile	0	0	1,217	2/	0	402
Union of South Africa	1,196	0	8,329	200	0	19,374
British India	38,236	552	0	10,271	33	0
United Kingdom	10,157	1,475	2,211	1,469	94	380
Ireland	2,513	177	217	779	2/	2/
Syria	8,376	167	0	3,852	0	0
Iraq	10,510	0	0	2,864	0	0
France	4,052	290	13	2/	2/	2/
China	2,443	156	0	2,618	20	0
Egypt	4,126	38	0	700	24	0
Canada	70	135	2,015	2/	51	496
All other	8,693	129	658	2,149	21	778
Total	144,632	23,582	74,611	54,432	6,107	59,683

Compiled from Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce, December 1939, and "Textile Raw Materials" - United States Department of Commerce, May 6, 1940, Vol. II, No. 19.

1/ Wool grading "not finer than 40s" may be imported free of duty if used for floor covering, press cloths, knit or felt boots, or heavy fulled lumbermen's socks. In the last 5 years about one-fifth of the imports of such wool have been duty free.

2/ If any, included in "other countries."

Mill consumption further reduced in April

Weekly average mill consumption of apparel wool in the United States in April was 3,494,000 pounds, scoured basis. The April rate of consumption was 21 percent lower than that of March and was the lowest rate reported since May 1938. The April consumption was 15 percent smaller than average April consumption in the 10 years 1929-38. Mill consumption on a scoured basis, in the first 4 months of this year, however, was only 5 percent smaller than in the same months last year.

Mill consumption on a grease basis from January through April was equivalent to 142 million pounds of shorn wool and 23 million pounds of pulled wool. In the same months of 1939 mill consumption on a grease basis was equivalent to 163 million pounds of shorn wool and 26 million pounds of pulled wool.

Mill orders for woven fabrics

Unfilled orders for woven cloths held by 119 mills reporting on March 30 were about 7 percent smaller than a year earlier but were almost twice as large as orders reported at the beginning of the second quarter in 1938, according to statistics published by the National Association of Wool Manufacturers. Mill sales of woven fabrics in April and May were restricted, probably as a result of the war uncertainties and unsettled situation in the markets generally. Commercial sources report that advance fall ordering by garment manufacturers and sellers has been relatively small.

Unfilled orders for woven cloth reported by 119 mills beginning of each quarter, 1938-40 1/

Quarter beginning	Men's wear		Women's wear	Auto cloths 2/	Total
	Government	Other			
	1,000 linear yd.	1,000 linear yd.	1,000 linear yd.	1,000 linear yd.	1,000 linear yd.
1938-					
Jan.	3,944	10,924	6,043	2,055	22,966
Apr.	2,293	6,293	4,139	1,894	14,619
July	995	13,286	8,041	1,315	23,637
Oct.	785	13,777	6,541	1,968	23,071
1939-					
Jan.	844	24,456	8,951	1,782	36,033
Apr.	565	22,905	5,252	834	29,556
July	661	19,913	11,526	1,824	33,924
Oct.	635	31,887	9,260	3,244	45,026
1940-					
Jan.	1,376	23,438	9,204	2,005	36,023
Apr.	748	21,297	4,429	1,136	27,610

Compiled from Monthly Statistics of Wool Manufacture, published by the National Association of Wool Manufacturers. Statistics are for cloth containing by weight over 25 percent of yarns spun on the woolen and worsted system. Cloth less than 50 inches wide reported in equivalent 54-inch yardage. The 119 mills are equipped with 27,000 looms.

1/ Reports are for specified dates, near the beginning of each quarter.

2/ Excludes cloth with pile or jacquard design.

South American wool markets quiet in April; exports in current season above average

The bulk of the 1939-40 wool clip in South American markets has been sold. Activity in these markets probably will be restricted until the 1940-41 clip is available in the late fall and winter.

Prices declined in Argentina in April on all wools except merinos and fine crossbreds but the quantity of wool sold at the lower prices was relatively

small. United States buyers have purchased only small quantities of wool since February. Sales to the United States were large in the first few months of the season. The United States has been the principal buyer of Argentine wool in the current season and has taken fully half of the wool shipped to date.

Exports from Argentina in the first 7 months (October-April) of the current season totaled 229 million pounds, grease basis, compared with 266 million pounds exported in the same months last year, and an average of 222 million pounds for those months in the five seasons 1934-35 through 1938-39. Exports of merino wool and fine crossbred wool so far this season have been smaller than the average for recent years but shipments of medium and coarse wools have been above average. Shipments of scoured wool have been much larger than usual. Exports by classes, in the first 7 months of the current season, with figures for earlier years are shown in the accompanying table.

Argentina: Exports of wool by classes, in the first 7 months of the 1939-40 season, with comparisons

Class	Season (Oct.-Sept.)		7 months (Oct.-Apr.)		
	Average 1934-35 to 1938-39	1938-39	Average 1934-35 to 1938-39	1938-39	1939-40 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Grease wool:					
Fine (merino)	25.2	24.9	18.2	18.7	10.5
Crossbred-					
Fine	88.0	85.0	62.8	57.2	40.2
Medium	25.3	29.7	18.5	21.2	24.1
Low	95.1	130.4	67.6	99.6	67.9
Criollo or native	8.5	10.8	5.4	7.2	10.4
Bellies	12.0	14.8	8.4	10.4	5.9
Total grease wool	254.1	295.6	180.9	214.3	159.0
Washed wool, grease equiv. 2/	20.6	25.4	13.0	15.6	18.6
Scoured wool, grease equiv. 2/	47.3	54.4	28.5	35.6	51.3
Total all wool on a grease basis	322.0	375.4	222.4	265.5	228.9

Argentina Bureau of Statistics.
1/ Preliminary.
2/ Not reported by classes.

There was little activity in the Uruguay wool market in April. Quotations for most classes of wool were nominal. Exports from Uruguay in the first 7 months (October-April) of the current season totaled 86 million pounds compared with 73 million pounds shipped in those months last year

and an average of 77 million pounds for those months in the five seasons 1934-35 through 1938-39. Shipments to the United States from October through April, totaling 27 million pounds, were larger than in any recent year. Exports from Uruguay by countries of destination are shown in table 7.

1939-40 season about over in South Africa

Wool prices advanced in South African selling centers in April. Sales were suspended on the invasion of Holland and Belgium but were resumed later in May. Foreign countries purchased very little wool in the latter part of the month. Prices were irregular. The 1939-40 season is now about over in South Africa and wools of the 1940-41 clip will not be available in quantity before September.

Disposals of wool at South African selling centers from July through April totaled about 209 million pounds compared with 231 million pounds for the same months last season. Unsold stocks at selling centers totaled only 7 million pounds at the end of April compared with 13 million pounds a year earlier.

Exports from South Africa continue much smaller than the quantity sold. Exports to the United States in the current season have been larger than in any recent year but shipments to European countries have been much smaller than usual. Exports by countries from July through April are shown in table 6.

Union of South Africa: Wool movement in the first 10 months (July-April) of the 1939-40 season, with comparisons

Item	July 1 - June 30		July 1 - Apr. 30		
	1937-38	1938-39	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Receipts at ports 2/ ..	232	248	214	231	209
Disposals 3/	227	252	205	229	206
Stocks at ports, end of period-					
Unsold	8	5	13	11	7
Sold	13	14	21	23	4/
Exports 5/	218	241	190	211	155

Compiled from South Africa Crops and Markets and cables from the London office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Under normal marketing conditions, receipts at ports for the entire season are representative of production. The preliminary estimate of production for 1939-40 is 270 million pounds.

3/ Auction and private sales and wool shipped unsold.

4/ Not yet available. Such stocks totaled 64 million pounds at the end of March.

5/ Weight of greasy and scoured combined.

OUTLOOK

BACKGROUND.- Mill consumption of wool in the United States was large in the latter part of 1938 and in 1939. The relatively large domestic consumption resulted in a marked decrease in stocks of wool in the United States. Because of the small stocks and European war developments, imports of wool increased materially in the last half of 1939 and in early 1940. Despite the large increase in imports, the carry-over of wool into the 1940 season, which began about April 1, was relatively small. Mill consumption has declined sharply since October 1939. Consumption for the first 4 months of this year was 5 percent smaller than in the same months last year. The decline in domestic mill consumption since October has been accompanied by a drop in wool prices, but prices at Boston in May were about 25 percent higher than a year earlier.

Industrial activity in the United States, which had been declining since December, turned upward in May. If the improvement continues, this may result in an increase in domestic mill consumption of wool for civilian purposes in the late summer and fall of this year. The development of the national defense program in this country is likely to result in a considerable increase in Government purchases of wool cloth for military purposes.

The War Department announced on June 4 that invitations to bidders will go out in the immediate future for quotations on more than 10 million yards of wool cloth and 500,000 blankets. When contracts are awarded they will provide that delivery for blankets will be within 4 months after date of award and all other cloth within 5 months.

Although an increase in domestic mill consumption in the second half of this year seems probable, consumption has declined sharply since the beginning of the year and total consumption for 1940 probably will not be so large as in 1939. In 1939 mill consumption of apparel wool was larger than in any recent year, except 1935.

Wool imports into the United States, which declined sharply in April, are expected to be further reduced during the late spring and summer as the 1940 domestic clip enters manufacturing channels. In view of the relatively small carry-over of wool in the United States on April 1 and the probability of some recovery in mill consumption in the last half of 1940, stocks of wool at the end of this year probably will not be large. Consequently, imports may again increase in the fall and winter of 1940-41.

Carry-over, production and imports of apparel wool, United States, 1935-40 (greasy, shorn and pulled)

Year beginning April 1	Stocks April 1 1/	Domestic production	Carry-over plus production	Imports for consumption 2/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1935	289	431	720	70
1936	190	427	617	151
1937	213	433	646	79
1938	239	436	675	47
1939	187	442	629	143
Average	224	434	657	98
1940	180	3/		

Stocks from the Bureau of the Census, imports from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, production from the Agricultural Marketing Service.
1/ Stocks reported by dealers and manufacturers, including wool afloat, and stocks on farms and ranches and in local warehouses in 13 Western States, not including any wool of the new clip.
2/ Actual weight of greasy, scoured and skin wool added together.
3/ Not yet available. Private estimates show an increase of 5 to 10 million pounds above 1939 production. The first official estimate of production for 1940 will be released on August 2.

United Kingdom wool textile industry operating at high level

The English wool manufacturing industry is being speeded up to supply the requirements of the allied military forces, according to reports from commercial sources. In recent months, output of the English mills for civilian consumption (at home) has been sharply curtailed. Every effort has been made to increase export trade in manufactured products. Mill consumption of wool in the United Kingdom in recent years probably has averaged close to 700 million pounds.

Wool manufacturing centers of Belgium and France in invaded territory

The occupation of Belgium and invasion of northern France has deprived the allies of an important center of wool manufacturing. The Roubaix-Tourcoing center of the French wool textile industry apparently is in invaded territory. In France and Belgium combined, retained imports of wool have averaged more than 500 million pounds in recent years. Belgium alone has imported about 140 million pounds a year. Practically all of the wool consumed in these countries is imported. It is likely that the Australian wool previously allocated to Belgium will now be available for other disposal.

In the World War of 1914-18 the Belgian and French textile centers were occupied by the Germans early in the conflict and outfitting

of the Allies was chiefly the work of the United Kingdom. Before entering the war in 1917, the United States shipped large quantities of military cloth to the allied powers. These exports, however, included large shipments to Russia and Italy, then fighting with the Allies.

The absence of a duty on United States wool imports from 1914 to 1920 greatly facilitated exports of wool manufactures from this country. The bulk of the apparel wool imported by the United States at present is subject to a duty of 34 cents a pound clean content.

COMPARABILITY OF DATA ON PRODUCTION, STOCKS AND CONSUMPTION OF WOOL IN THE UNITED STATES

Statistics of United States wool production, prepared by the Agricultural Marketing Service are estimates of the quantity of wool shorn from live sheep (shorn wool) plus the quantity of wool pulled from the pelts of slaughtered sheep (pulled wool). The weight of the shorn wool in these estimates is "greasy shorn" weight, the weight of the wool as it comes from the live sheep, including all grease and foreign matter in it. The weight of the pulled wool is "greasy pulled" weight as reported by wool pulling establishments. Before the wool is pulled from the pelt the pelt is washed and a considerable amount of dirt and grease is removed from the wool. The weight of the wool pulled from the pelt (greasy pulled weight) is much less than it would be if the wool had been shorn from live sheep.

United States statistics of mill consumption, and stocks held by dealers and manufacturers are compiled by the Bureau of the Census from reports made to the Bureau by wool manufacturers and wool dealers. Manufacturers and dealers report the actual weight of wool held, or consumed, classified as to grade and condition (greasy or scoured). Conversion to a scoured and greasy basis is made by the Bureau of the Census, on the basis of average yields varying with origin and grade.

Because mills did not separate scoured shorn wool and scoured pulled wool in consumption reports prior to 1933, the annual figures on mill consumption in the United States, 1918-39, are reported by the Bureau of the Census on a greasy shorn basis for both shorn and pulled wool. In these statistics, pulled wool, both greasy and scoured, has been converted to its equivalent weight of greasy shorn wool. Hence, these statistics are not comparable with United States production estimates in which pulled wool is in greasy pulled weight (mostly washed).

In order to make the United States production estimates comparable with the final consumption data described above (greasy shorn basis) the estimates of pulled wool production should be converted to a greasy shorn basis. This has been done by the New York Wool Top Exchange Service and their estimates, together with the estimates of the Agricultural Marketing Service are shown in table 1. Table 1 also shows mill consumption on a greasy shorn basis, 1920-39.

Beginning with 1935 the Bureau of the Census has reported preliminary monthly statistics of United States mill consumption on a greasy shorn and

pulled basis. In these estimates, pulled wool is on a greasy pulled basis, as received from pulling establishments. Thus the monthly consumption figures are on the same basis as the production estimates of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

For the period 1935-37, the annual estimates of mill consumption on a greasy shorn basis as originally published were the same as the total of monthly figures for each year, except that consumption of pulled wool was converted to a greasy shorn basis. In December 1939 revised annual figures of mill consumption of wool on a greasy shorn basis were published by the Bureau of the Census for the years 1935-37. The revised figures for these years are substantially higher than the preliminary estimates based on the monthly figures. Data on mill consumption obtained from the Census of Manufactures for 1935 and 1937 formed the basis for the revisions.

Figures on consumption on a greasy shorn and greasy pulled basis are not reported by the Census of Manufactures. The data on consumption on a greasy shorn and greasy pulled basis for 1935-37, as reported monthly by the Bureau of the Census, therefore, can not be revised as the annual figures on total mill consumption on a greasy shorn basis have been. The annual totals on mill consumption compiled from the monthly data are given in table 2 along with the estimates of production of shorn and pulled wool in the United States, for the years 1935-39.

Data on wool stocks held by dealers and manufacturers are reported by the Bureau of the Census on a greasy shorn and pulled basis. The stocks figures are on a comparable basis with wool production estimates of the Agricultural Marketing Service and with unrevised monthly consumption data reported by the Bureau of the Census. Because stocks of pulled wool are reported in greasy pulled weight, the stocks data are not on a comparable basis with final revised consumption data, greasy shorn basis. Stocks reported by dealers and manufacturers, 1935-39 are shown in table 3.

It appears that the New York Wool Top Exchange Service converts the reported stocks of pulled wool held by dealers and manufacturers to a greasy shorn basis.

Final revised mill consumption statistics and data on stocks held by dealers and manufacturers are available on a scoured basis in the Bureau of the Census reports. Because of the wide variations in shrinkage of the various types and grades of domestic wool, it has not been practicable to estimate the United States production on a scoured basis.

Table 1.- Apparel wool: Production and mill consumption in the United States, 1920-39

Year	Production: Shorn wool: Greasy shorn	Production: Pulled wool: Greasy pulled	Production: Pulled wool: Greasy shorn equivalent 1/	Production: Total: Greasy shorn and pulled	Production: Total: Greasy shorn basis	Mill consumption greasy shorn basis
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
1920	251	43	70	294	321	510.9
1921	242	48	77	290	319	597.4
1922	228	42	69	270	297	640.4
1923	230	42	69	273	299	603.1
1924	238	44	71	282	309	518.0
1925	253	47	76	300	329	525.2
1926	269	50	81	319	350	524.1
1927	289	50	82	340	371	551.1
1928	315	52	84	367	399	511.9
1929	328	54	88	382	416	554.7
1930	352	62	101	414	453	447.9
1931	376	66	107	442	483	545.2
1932	351	67	109	418	460	439.8
1933	374	64	104	438	478	572.2
1934	370	60	98	431	468	381.4
1935	365	66	107	431	472	2/ 748.4
1936	360	66	108	427	468	2/ 666.4
1937	367	66	107	433	474	2/ 579.5
1938	372	64	98	436	470	3/ 513.9
1939	377	64	101	442	478	3/ 673.9

Shorn wool production, and pulled wool production "greasy pulled" from the Agricultural Marketing Service. Total production "greasy shorn" basis from the New York Wool Top Exchange service. Mill consumption from the Bureau of the Census.

Consumption data are for calendar years, 1920-33, thereafter totals cover 52-week periods approximating calendar years, except 1938 which is for 53 weeks ended December 31.

Production statistics rounded from thousands, have not been adjusted to totals.

1/ Obtained by subtracting shorn wool production from total production greasy shorn basis.
2/ Data for 1935-37 are revisions based on the biennial Census of Manufactures.
3/ Preliminary data compiled from monthly reports.

Table 2.- Apparel wool: Production and mill consumption in the United States, 1935-39

(Greasy shorn and pulled basis)

Year	Production			Mill consumption 1/ (unrevised)		
	Shorn	Pulled 2/	Total	Shorn	Pulled 2/	Total
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1935	364,667	66,000	430,667	566,976	92,344	659,320
1936	360,327	66,200	426,527	496,418	79,305	575,723
1937	366,609	66,200	432,809	423,137	68,377	491,514
1938	371,972	64,500	436,472	406,428	68,099	474,527
1939	377,397	64,500	441,897	551,336	78,814	630,150

Production from the Agricultural Marketing Service. Mill consumption from the Bureau of the Census.

Mill consumption statistics have been compiled directly from the monthly reports for each year. The monthly figures are too low, according to data obtained in the Census of Manufactures, 1935 and 1937. Final data based on the biennial Census of Manufactures, are not reported on a shorn and pulled basis.

Conversion to a grease basis is made by the Bureau of the Census, assuming average yields varying with origin and grade.

1/ Mill consumption for 52-week periods approximating calendar years, except 1938 which is for 53 weeks ended December 31.
2/ Pulled wool as reported by pulleries and is mostly washed.

Table 3.- Stocks of apparel wool reported by dealers and manufacturers and stocks in 13 Western sheep States, United States, 1935-39

(Greasy shorn and pulled basis)

Date	Held by dealers and manufacturers			On farms in 13 Western sheep States 3/
	Shorn 1/	Pulled 2/	Total	
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1935				
Mar. 31			4/ 289,390	5/
June 29	289,093	30,382	319,475	5/
Sept. 28	310,216	34,593	344,809	5/
Dec. 31	196,042	38,491	234,533	4,500
1936				
Mar. 28	147,652	41,853	189,505	350
June 27	253,523	41,623	295,146	5/
Sept. 26	223,513	38,085	261,598	5/
Dec. 31	206,706	40,175	246,881	1,800
1937				
Mar. 27	165,154	47,596	212,750	330
June 26	246,473	40,914	287,387	5/
Sept. 25	234,339	41,839	276,178	5/
Dec. 31	196,576	42,911	239,487	31,600
1938				
Mar. 26	166,904	49,868	216,772	22,500
June 25	252,341	45,381	297,722	5/
Sept. 24	281,776	39,381	321,157	5/
Dec. 31	201,778	36,625	238,403	13,340
1939				
Apr. 1	143,186	37,753	180,939	6,290
July 1	222,047	33,720	255,767	5/
Sept. 30	213,264	31,598	244,862	5/
Dec. 30	167,881	37,539	205,420	14,384

Compiled from quarterly wool stocks reports, Bureau of the Census. Conversion to a grease basis is made by the Bureau of the Census assuming average yields varying with origin and grade.

1/ Shorn wool reported "greasy" plus shorn wool reported "scoured" raised to a greasy shorn basis.

2/ Pulled wool reported "greasy" plus pulled wool reported "scoured" raised to a "greasy pulled" basis. A "greasy pulled" basis represents wool as received from pulleries and is mostly washed.

3/ Estimated by the Agricultural Marketing Service. Includes wool on farms and ranches and in local country warehouses.

4/ Grease basis figures for March 30, 1935 calculated from statistics of condition in which reported. Stocks figures were not reported on a grease basis by the Bureau of the Census until June 1935.

5/ No estimate available.

Table 4.- Prices of wool per pound in specified markets and prices of textile raw materials in the United States, selected periods, 1938-40

Market and description	Average 1938	Average 1939	1939 Apr.	1939 May	1940 1/ Mar.	1940 1/ Apr.	1940 1/ May
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
United States							
Boston market							
Territory, scoured basis							
64s, 70s, 80s (fine) staple	70.4	82.7	69.0	69.8	93.6	88.5	88.5
56s (3/8 blood) combing	58.9	69.3	57.1	58.5	77.0	73.2	73.5
46s (low 1/4 blood)	52.4	62.6	50.0	52.0	76.0	72.2	71.2
Bright fleece, greasy							
64s, 70s, 80s (fine) delaine	29.0	32.9	27.0	27.7	36.6	33.9	33.5
56s (3/8 blood) combing	29.5	36.2	28.5	30.4	38.5	36.1	37.1
46s (low 1/4 blood)	28.3	35.5	27.4	28.6	39.5	35.6	36.0
Prices received by farmers, grease basis, 15th of month	19.2	22.3	19.7	21.0	27.3	26.1	27.6
Textile fibers							
Wool territory fine staple 2/	70.4	82.7	69.0	69.8	93.6	88.5	88.5
Cotton 7/8 Middling 3/	8.58	9.04	8.51	9.16	10.42	10.45	9.93
Silk Japanese 4/	170.6	272.6	239.3	268.9	295.1	268.1	279.4
Rayon yarn 150 denier 5/	52.2	51.5	51.0	51.0	53.0	53.0	53.0
Rayon staple fiber 6/							
Viscose 1-1/2 denier			25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Acetate 5 denier			46.0	46.0	43.0	43.0	43.0
Union of South Africa							
Average export price, greasy wool	16.6	16.0	14.0	13.5	19.1	19.9	
Price at selling centers							
70s warp clean cost	7/46.2	8/45.0	39.1	9/	59.9		
64-70s combing clean cost	10/41.0	10/40.1	35.1	34.9	53.9	58.0	
Uruguay - Montevideo							
Crossbred - greasy							
Fine 50/56s - 60s	18.8	10/18.8	17.9	17.7	29.3	9/	
Coarse 32/36s - 44s	17.0	10/16.9	15.6	15.8	30.0	9/	

Compiled as follows:

United States -
Reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service except as otherwise noted.

Union of South Africa -
South Africa Crops and Markets and report of the South Africa Ministry for Agriculture.

Uruguay -
Camara Mercantil de Productos del Pais. Prices are monthly averages of weekly range quotations.

Yearly averages are averages of monthly prices except United States farm price, which is a weighted average.

Foreign prices have been converted at prevailing rates of exchange.

1/ Prices for foreign markets for 1940 are preliminary. 2/ Scoured basis, Boston market. 3/ Average at ten markets. 4/ White 13-15 denier at New York, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 5/ Domestic yarn, first quality, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 6/ F.o.b. producing plants, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 7/ Eight-month average, no quotations, May through August. 8/ Seven-month average, no quotations, May through September. 9/ No quotations. 10/ Ten-month average, no quotations, July and August. 11/ Eight-month average, no quotations, August through November.

Table 5.- United States: Wool imports, consumption and machinery activity, selected periods 1938-40

Item	Year 1938	Year 1939	Jan.-Apr. 1939	Jan.-Apr. 1940	Apr. 1939	Mar. 1940	Apr. 1940
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
Imports for consumption, actual weight 1/							
Apparel	30,811	98,194	26,955	77,828	6,304	20,733	12,038
Finer than 40's	18,443	74,612	19,213	69,941	4,851	19,009	10,259
Not finer than 40's	12,369	23,582	7,742	7,887	1,453	1,724	1,779
Carpet, including camels hair	71,908	144,874	53,737	64,361	10,357	17,878	9,837
Mill consumption 2/:							
Grease basis 3/							
Apparel	474,527	630,150	188,813	164,736	40,100	33,578	33,823
Carpet	92,736	148,513	52,472	48,514	11,645	10,423	11,733
Scoured basis							
Aggregate							
Apparel	219,565	293,083	89,067	84,671	19,567	17,709	17,471
Carpet	64,945	103,421	36,575	34,245	8,159	7,340	8,544
Weekly average							
Apparel	4,143	5,636	4,948	4,704	3,914	4,427	3,494
Carpet	1,225	1,989	2,032	1,902	1,631	1,835	1,308
Machinery activity 2/:	Weekly average in hours						
Hours operated per machine in place							
Worsted combs	39.8	51.8	46.4	43.4	36.8	38.5	33.6
Worsted spindles	26.9	39.6	36.8	29.3	31.9	25.1	24.8
Woolen spindles	30.6	39.8	35.9	36.0	30.6	31.5	31.2
Woolen and worsted looms							
Broad	28.1	40.7	39.0	33.3	31.0	26.5	25.6
Narrow	10.5	13.2	11.1	12.6	9.6	11.5	10.1
Carpet and rug looms							
Broad	23.4	37.4	36.9	40.7	37.4	40.3	38.1
Narrow	15.9	22.7	24.0	22.2	22.9	21.1	22.5

Import figures from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Consumption and machinery activity from the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Weight of greasy, scoured, and skin wool added together.

2/ Figures for March based on 4 weeks, April on 5 weeks, January-April on 18 weeks. 1938 figures for 53 weeks ended December 31. No adjustments made for holidays.

3/ Total of shorn and pulled wool. Pulled wool, grease basis, is in condition received from pulleries and is mostly washed.

Table 6.- Union of South Africa: Wool exports in the first 10 months (July-April) of the 1939-40 exporting season, with comparisons 1/

Country	July 1 - June 30			July 1 - Apr. 30		
	Average 1934-35 to 1938-39	1938-39	1938-39	1939-40 2/		
				July-Mar.	Apr.	July-Apr.
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
United States ...	2.0	0.7	0.6	33.7	0.2	33.9
United Kingdom ..	44.4	45.9	36.2	25.4	3.7	29.1
France	49.6	51.2	44.1	18.7	9.9	28.6
Germany	63.9	86.0	80.5	1.0	---	1.0
Belgium	21.2	20.2	16.7	9.8	3.0	12.8
Italy	15.5	22.6	21.4	10.7	7.6	18.3
Japan	20.8	1.8	1.8	12.9	0.7	13.6
Other	13.3	12.6	10.2	16.2	1.6	17.8
Total	230.7	241.0	211.5	128.4	26.7	155.1

Compiled from South Africa Crops and Markets and cabled reports from London and Pretoria.

1/ Weight of grease and scoured wool combined. 2/ Preliminary.

Table 7.- Wool exports from Uruguay in the first 7 months of the 1939-40 export season, with comparisons

Country	Oct. 1 - Sept. 30		Oct. 1 - Apr. 30	
	Average 1934-35 to 1938-39	1938-39	1938-39	1939-40 1/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
United States	14.7	16.6	5.5	26.9
United Kingdom	20.5	10.8	8.0	0.9
France	7.2	6.5	5.3	1.1
Germany	30.5	36.2	25.8	4.4
Belgium	10.5	18.3	3.6	3.2
Italy	13.5	16.1	11.6	10.8
Sweden	2.2	3.1	2.0	12.5
Netherlands	4.0	8.4	2.9	13.6
Japan	7.9	1.4	1.3	4.3
Other	4.1	10.6	7.3	8.2
Total	115.1	128.0	73.3	85.9

Compiled from commercial reports supplied by Buenos Aires office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

1/ Preliminary.